

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4523

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GENEVA 5449

EXDIS

PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR EUR/RPM

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: PROPOSED MALTESE CHANGE IN PACKAGE DEAL ON STAGE
III DATE

REF: GENEVA 5441

1. MINTOFF'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR KINGSWELL, PRESENTED ON MORNING OF JULY 11 MALTESE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN DRAFT PACKAGE DEAL (REFTEL). THE SINGLE ALTERATION WOULD BE TO ADD THE PHRASE "...REDUCING THE ARMED FORCES IN THE REGION ..." AFTER THE WORDS "LESSENING TENSIONS" IN THE PARAGRAPH ON THE MEDITERRANEAN (PARA. 1 OF PACKAGE). THE WORDS "IN THE AREA" IN THE PRESENT TEXT WOULD BE DELETED.

2. KINGSWELL TOLD THE ROMANIAN REP, WHO HAS BEEN HIS INFORMAL CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE EXERCISE, THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

- A. IT REPRESENTS MALTA'S "MINIMUM" POSITION.
- B. AS SUCH, IT IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

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C. MINTOFF HAS INSTRUCTED KINGSWELL NOT TO CALL VALETTA WITH

ANY PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE PHRASE.

D. IF THE AMENDMENT IS ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE, THE MALTESE WILL APPROVE THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON STATE III DATE WITHOUT OBJECTION.

3. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR SHERER ASKED NATO REPS AT A CAUCUS ON THE MORNING OF JULY 11 FOR THEIR REACTIONS TO THE MALTESE PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL (UK, FRANCE, TURKEY) WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WORDING, ALL AGREED TO ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS IMMEDIATELY. AMBASSADOR SHERER ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF, WHEN ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS, NATO REPS NOTED TO THEIR AUTHORITIES THAT THE SECRETARY WAS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PHRASE.

4. INFORMAL REACTION AMONG MOST NATO REPS TO THE PROPOSAL SEEMS TO BE THAT SINCE THEY ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, THEY CAN GO ALONG IF THE US AND OTHER MAJOR PARTICIPANTS CAN AGREE. POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS ARE TURKEY AND PERHAPS FRANCE. THE NEUTRAL GROUP HAS MET AND AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONE WHERE THEY ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THE NEUTRALS WILL NOT OPPOSE THE MALTESE PROPOSAL AND WILL ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL IF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE NECESSARY. YUGOSLAVIA AND CYPRUS BELIEVE THE WORDING IS POSITIVE FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, AND THE SPANISH SAY THAT WHILE THEY SEE NO NEED FOR THE PHRASE, THEY CAN ACCEPT IT. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT TAKEN A POSITION OPENLY ON THE PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE WORDING. THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE NATO POSITION BEFORE MAKING UP THEIR MINDS. THEY HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT IT IN THE END.

5. COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS ADJOURNED UNTIL EVENING OF JULY 11 TO ALLOW DELEGATIONS TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS.DALE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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